

Slow down! Number of traffic stops in Lyon County spiked in 2024

BY PER PETERSON
EDITOR

Lyon County Sheriff Eric Wallen gave the Lyon County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday an in-depth review of 2024 through the Sheriff's Office annual activity report.

One glaring highlight from the report is the number of traffic stops that are made in 2024 compared to 2023. In 2023, the Sheriff's Office made 1,655 traffic stops in Marshall, as well as the cities that have contacts with the Sheriff's Office — Balaton, Cottonwood, Ghent, Lynd, Russell. Last year, that number spiked to 3,942, the majority being speeding violations.

"We've been making an effort in being more proactive in traffic enforcement and education," Wallen said. "That's why you see a bigger increase in that category."

In all, there were 8,134 total calls for service to the Sheriff's Office in 2024, which was up substantially from 5,679 the year before. The day with the highest volume of calls for service last year Wednesdays (721), with Saturday following with 611 for the year.

Wallen reported there were 761 bookings in 2024, down from 796 in 2023. The average daily

population at the Lyon County Jail last year was just shy of 33, with an average length of stay of 14.88 days.

"Our housing numbers are low, but the amount of people coming in isn't changing," Wallen said. "We're bringing in the same number of people every year, but the length of stay is way less, which I think is reflected in the daily (jail) population."

Wallen said that's because there has been changes in the bail system.

"Bail is less or just zero, so people are released on the promise to behave and reappear in court," Wallen said.

Also, there were 5,893 911 calls and 38,759 non-emergency calls to the Sheriff's Office in 2024 — that includes all the cities within Lyon County.

The average wait for a 911 answer in the county in 2024 was 3 seconds (one run cycle is equivalent to 6 seconds).

"Basically, we're answering those in half a ring, which I think is a pretty good average for our staff," said Wallen.

In related news, the board approved contracts

for jail medical and mental services. The Lyon County Jail has partnerd with Western Mental Health Center for mental services since 2018 and medical services since 2022. Initial contracts called for a 3% annual increase in both, but there was no change in the charged rates since the initial contracts were agreed upon. Therefore, the updated contracts include a 3% adjustment for each of the missed years.

In other business Tuesday ...

- The board approved a resolution to continue Grain in Aid funding for the Russell OHV park, valid for five years.

- The board moved to renew a \$3,000 appropriation (\$1,000 for each of the next three years) to the Lyon & Murray County CEO program.

- The board OKd the replacement of two patrol vehicles to be purchased from Lockwood Motors — a 2025 RAM truck for \$44,906 plus tax) and a 2025 Dodge Durango (\$43,624 plus tax, title and license), which is used for the K-9 unit.

- The board also moved to declare a Soil and

Water Conservation District 2010 Dodge truck as surplus equipment to be replaced by a newer truck from Lockwood at a cost of \$44,001.38. That truck will be paid for from a SWCD Buffer Law Grant (\$25,000) and MPCA Feedlot Grant (approximately \$15,820). The SWCD board supports the use of the Buffer Law Grant — these are all monies that come from the State to the SWCD.

- The board discussed a date for an open house at the new-look Garvin Park, likely to be held in mid- or late September of this year. The board approved a motion Tuesday to declare three picnic shelters at the park as surplus, as they will be replaced by new ones. The open house is actually a requirement by the State since Legacy Grant dollars were used for the new shelters.

- The board OKd allowing firearm turkey hunting at Garvin Park during Season A (April 16-22, 2025) and Season B (April 23-29, 2025) and closing the park one-half hour before sunrise until noon each day during seasons A and B. Archery hunting throughout the wild turkey seasons (April 16-31) will also be allowed, but trail use during those days will not be allowed.

Minnesota farmers encouraged to participate in annual survey

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is encouraging farmers to take part in its annual pesticide and fertilizer use survey. This year the phone survey is directed at corn and soybean producers. The data helps the MDA track the use of agricultural chemicals on Minnesota farms and provides guidance to educational and research programs.

The survey began Feb. 3 and needs to be completed by Feb.

26. Survey questions will focus on pesticide and fertilizer applications on corn and soybeans grown in Minnesota for the 2024 season. The annual survey is completely voluntary, and farmers are not asked any personal questions.

The survey is conducted for the MDA by the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service out of their regional offices in Missouri and Arkansas. The calls will often be identified as 'Nass

Call Center' on caller ID.

If you have questions about the MDA's annual survey, or if you wish to view results of previous surveys, visit the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticidefertilizersurveys. Producers can also call the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at 651-955-4066 from 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

Public Notice

(First date of Pub.: Wed., Feb. 5, 2025
(Dates of Pub.: Wed., Feb. 5, 12, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE OF FORFEITED LANDS THROUGH THE USE OF ONLINE AUCTION

Lyon County will sell to the highest bidder, but not for less than the Estimated Market Value, the following parcel of land. This property forfeited to the State of Minnesota for the non-payment of taxes as provided by MN Statutes, Chapter 282. Said sale shall commence at 8:00 a.m., March 10th, 2025 and close on 11:59 pm April 9th, 2025. Auction will be online at publicsurplus.com

Any parcels for which no bid is received during the public sale can be rebid for purchase beginning the next business day, April 10th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. and close on 11:59pm on April 24th, 2025 online for not less than the Minimum Bid price set forth on Exhibit C.

Parcel #	Legal Description
28-110010-0	The Northeasterly Five (5) feet of Lot One (1) and the Southwesterly Forty-Five (45) feet of Lot Two (2), Block Thirty-Four (34), Fifth Railway Addition to the city of Minneota, Lyon county, Minnesota.

List of properties for Sale (Exhibit C) and the full terms and conditions (Exhibit A) can be found on the Lyon County website at www.lyonco.org. The list of properties for sale shows the amount of any specials assessments which may be the subject of a reassessment, or which may result in the imposition of a fee or charge pursuant to section 429.71 subdivision 4, 435.23 and 444.076 of Minnesota Statutes.

For additional information, please phone (507) 537-6724, or visit the Lyon County Auditor Treasurer's Office at 607 W. Main Street, Marshall, MN 56258.

Aurora Heard
Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer

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While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (833) 937-2593.

BOARD & COMMISSION OPENINGS

The City of Tracy will be filling the following openings on boards and commissions. Interested parties should contact Diane Campbell at the City Hall 507-629-5533 for information on requirements, application and length of term for service. Applications should be submitted no later than February 21, 2025 for consideration at the March 12, 2025 City Council meeting. Openings are as follows:

Board, Commission or Council	Number of Positions Open
• Library Board	(3) Three
• Planning Commission	(2) Two
• Police Commission	(1) One
• HRA Board	(1) One
• Charter Commission	(6) Six
• Airport Commission	(1) One

336 MORGAN ST
TRACY, MN
(507) 629-5528

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NOTICE OF GALES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Annual town meeting of the Town of Gales in the County of Redwood, State of Minnesota, will be held on the second Tuesday of March, being the 11th day of March 2025 commencing at 8:05 p.m. and continuing thereafter in said town to transact the following town business.

(First Date of Pub.: Wed., Jan. 15, 2025)
(Dates of Pub.: Wed., Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 24, 2021
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$127,600.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Ladonna Mae Rathje, a single woman
MORTGAGEE: Discover Bank
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded: September 7, 2021 Lyon County Recorder Document Number: ER12265 Transaction Agent: Not Applicable
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: Not Applicable
Lender/Broker/Mortgage Originator: Discover Bank Residential Mortgage Servicer: Discover Bank
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Lyon
Property Address: 102 W Southview Drive, Marshall, MN 56258
Tax Parcel ID Number: 27-572014-0
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 7 in Block 2 of Nielsens 7th Addition to the City of Marshall, Lyon County, Minnesota according to the recorded plat thereof
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$125,035.15
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above-described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 04, 2025 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: County Sheriff's office, in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center, 611 West Main Street, Marshall, Minnesota
to pay the debt secured by said

ELECTION HOURS WILL BE 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

To elect the following Town Officers for the following terms:

One Town Supervisor for the term of three (3) years.

The annual meeting will commence at 8:05 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and meeting will be held at the following location: Gales Town Hall

Ron Wixon, clerk
Gales Township

mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorney fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

If the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on September 04, 2025, or the next business day if September 04, 2025 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Mortgagor(s) released from financial obligation: NONE

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

DATED: January 8, 2025
MORTGAGEE: Discover Bank

Wilford, Geske & Cook, P.A.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
7616 Currell Boulevard, Suite 200
Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 209-3300

File Number: 055827-F1

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Budget Summary - City of Balaton

General Government	2025
City Hall	\$5,175
Council	
Less EDA Grant = 30,000	\$31,800
Mayor	\$4,029
C-T	\$76,407
Elections	\$-
Audit	\$7,500
Assessor	\$5,800
Legal	\$12,000
Pers. Add'l Salary	\$29,641
Zoning	\$500
Bus Garage	\$1,279
City Shop	\$18,647
Community Center	\$18,664
Insurance	\$500
Care Center	\$-
Tax Abatement	\$9,024
Total General Gov't.	\$220,966
Public Safety	
Police	\$79,358
Civil Defense	\$2,000
Fire	\$107,436
Ambulance	\$93,686
Total Public Safety	\$282,480
Streets & Highways	
Street	\$147,439
Snow	\$81,576
Storm Sewer	\$13,943
Street Lights	\$20,158
Weeds	\$-
Total Streets & Highways	\$263,116
Sanitation	
Burnsite	\$333
Total Sanitation	\$333
Culture & Recreation	
Library	\$5,227
Parks	\$69,126
Summer Recreation	\$-
Total Culture & Recreation	\$74,353
Urban Redevelopment & Housing EDA	\$30,000
Total Urban Redevelopment	\$30,000
Capital Outlay	
City Hall	\$3,000
Clerk-Treasurer	\$-
City Shop	\$10,000
Community Center	\$2,000
Street	\$4,500
Snow	\$25,000
Storm Sewer	\$10,000
Park	\$4,000
Civil Defense	\$-
Fire	\$22,023
Ambulance	\$4,000
Total Capital Outlay	\$84,523
Debt Service	
GO Bond Payments	\$145,490
Total Debt Service	\$145,490

Expenditure less Revenue	2025
General Government	\$220,640
Public Safety	\$237,663
Streets & Highways	\$241,191
Sanitation	\$1,830
Culture & Recreation	\$61,208
Urban Redevelopment	\$30,000
Capital Outlay	\$87,500
Debt Service	\$144,109
Transfers to Other Funds	
Total Expenditures	\$1,024,141

Revenue	
Levied for Eastbay Bond	\$145,490
Property Taxes	\$486,281
Licenses & Permits	\$1,575
State Aid	\$256,757
Categorial Aid	\$-
Charges for Services	\$94,076
Fines & Forfeits	\$600
Interest	\$2,200
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$8,200
Total Revenue	\$995,179

Transfers "In"	
	\$68,201

GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	
	\$1,063,380

Increase (Decrease) In Fund Balance	2.08%
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Prepared by Kim Wall
1/27/2025